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New Canaan Resident Denies U. S. Aids Radio Free Europe

CPYRGHT

Albert D. Kappel, of 734 Ocenoke ridge, New Canaan, executive vice president of Radio Free Europe, has denied his agency is "an organization or arm" of the U.S. government in response to a report that the Central Intelligence agency has given financial aid to RFE.

On a fund-raising mission for RFE in Providence, R.I., the day following a recent New York Times article, Mr. Kappel's statement identified RFE as "a private organization, privately financed and privately operated, and does not receive financial aid from the U. S. government.

The New York Times article said that Radio Free Europe, among other propaganda outlets, provides "cover for CIA-financed organizations that draw upon the research talents of American scholars and also services scholars with invaluable raw material." The article charged that RFE, which broadcasts to eastern Europe, advertises for public support "without revealing its ties" to the government.

Mr. Kappel said it is true that RFE provides "scholars with invaluable raw materials."

Wide Circulation

Mr. Kappel expanded on the issue of raw material by saying, "Our research and analysis reports are used by scholars, journalists (including The New York Times), the U.S. government and governments of our allies."

It was inferred in The New York Times article that these RFE services receive aid through the CIA.

Rowson Fairfield Speaker

The Providence fund-raising luncheon, after which Mr. Kappel made his statement, was addressed by the RFE director of policy and planning, Richard C. Rowson of Queens, N.Y., who in 1959 addressed the Fairfield League of Women Voters in his position then as executive assistant to the president of the Foreign Policy association.

The annual budget of RFE is $13 million, and RFE officials have expressed concern that the New York Times article will weaken the organization's image in eastern Europe.

"Some of our strength is that we are a private people-to-people organization," Mr. Kappel said.

Mr. Rowson emphasized in his address that RFE has been accomplishing its goals in eastern Europe because it is a privately-financed operation without any government affiliation.

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